

JAPANESE SNAPSHOTS

The Funny Things One Sees
in
Smiling Round the World

By
MARSHALL P. WILDER

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The streets in Japan are fascinating, overflowing as they are with life and color. The children are as the sands of the sea, and seven times out of ten a child has a smaller one strapped to his or her back. There is no distinction, boys playing nurse quite as frequently as girls. I contrasted their cheerfulness and evident pleasure in performing this duty with the outraged dignity of an American boy of 10 or 12 obliged to carry a baby about for a morning or afternoon.

The children are put out of the houses early in the morning, when the



A Child Strapped to a Child's Back.

mothers sweep, dust and polish everything to an immaculate cleanliness, and the little nomads live and play, and apparently eat all their meals in the streets.

The shops are open to the streets, and closed at night with wooden shutters. At the back of every shop may be seen the paper covered sliding screen leading into the little home. This screen is almost invariably open, disclosing the entire family group. The hair-dresser, building up the wonderful coiffure—rolled over tiny bolsters, and greased with cocoa-oil to a shining blackness—affected by the Japanese women; shampooing, sewing; writing, reading—every occupation is in full view of the passer-by.

Speaking of shops and making one self understood, I felt that after my experience in the Hawaiian tongue I was fully justified in letting the Japanese severely alone. I never got much beyond the two words, "O-hay-o" (good morning) and "sayonara" (good-by). The "good morning" is pronounced as near like Ohio as they can make it.

I suppose if they wanted to bid anyone "good night" they would say Philadelphia.

But I did try to learn something about the Japanese money and its various divisions; only I had had luck from the start. I got hold of the wrong customer, or else he did.

I started in to buy some sandals and a hat. I know that one yen, at par, is worth almost exactly 50 cents American money, and that ten rin go to a yen, and 100 rin to a yen. But the old man who waited on me either knew no more than I did, or was exploiting some new and original methods of his own; for he held up the sandals in one hand and the hat in the other, while he ejaculated in a low guttural: "Mon! mon!"

"Oh, yes! I gotta da mon!" I replied, pulling out my purse, and spreading some Japanese coins in my palm.

But he shook his head and held up his forefinger, saying: "Shy!" "Oh, I'm shy one, am I? Well, take this!" and I threw the largest coin I had into the little basket before him. But this seemed to excite him. He wagged his forefinger at me and cried: "Bunkyu!" at the top of his voice.

"Bunco me? I guess not, my friend!" I replied. "I'm from New York!"

At this he threw down the hat and sandals, and, shaking his hands as though he were trying to get rid of soap-suds, cried: "Shi-mon! shi-mon!"

"Oh, I was shy one, and now I'm shy the whole business! Well, I don't think you and I will make a deal to-day!" and sweeping the coins into my purse, I was preparing to be gone.

Suddenly he leaned forward, thrust his face close to mine, and in the most indescribable manner hissed through his teeth: "Ichi-bu! Ichi-bu!"

Well, say! Did you ever play that idiotic game with a six or seven months' old infant, sayed Kitch-a-boo? The baby lies in the cradle, or on its mother's lap, as the case may be, and you, wishing to make yourself solid with the family, lean over and, assuming a ghastly grin, teeter over toward the infant and then teeter back again, and then teeter forward, sputtering: "Kitch-a-boo! Kitch-

a-boo!" until it's ten to one that the kid either goes into fits or lets out a howl that makes the mother wish that murder was not a punishable offense.

If you have ever indulged in that tender little pastime, then you can have some idea of my frame of mind when the old Jap performed this strange antic. Backing away from him, I shook my head violently and thrust my purse into my pocket; when he plucked me by the sleeve, and with a whine that would have done credit to a Hester street old clothes man, said: "Kanye! Kanye!"

"No, I can't! and I'm hanged if I ever will!" and with that I turned away, and the negotiation was at an end.

Now, what do you think was the matter with the old fellow? Why, he was not only a little touched in the upper story, but he knew nothing of the cash system of his country later than the vintage of 1868. He had been left to tend the shop for a few moments, and as usual I fell a victim to the change of circumstances. Let it be said, that, according to Delmar, the standard formerly was, as in China, the small round iron or bronze coins with the square hole in the center which were of three denominations: First, the mon; second, the bunkyu; third, the shi-mon. The shi was an oblong silver coin, and the Ichi-bu another; the latter being equal to four shi. Kan-ye means the era of coinage; but the era on the old coins does not indicate the age of the coin. For example, coins made about 1860 bear the name of the era Kanye.

The manufacture of all these ceased at the beginning of the present era of Meiji, that is to say, the 25th of January, 1868, which was the year when the present emperor assumed sovereign power. The mon is now valued at one rin, and the bunkyu at one and one-half rin. The old gold coins and the oblong silver ones are only to be found in the curio shops.

When her husband dies, even though she may be young and charming, the widow's hair is cut off, and she is doomed for the rest of her life to single blessedness and a cropped head. An old-time custom, which is fortunately dying out, was to blacken a woman's teeth when she got married. So it was hard to tell which was most disfiguring—getting a husband or losing one. Every district has its own distinctive marriage ceremony, but the following is the one in general use:

No priest officiates at the marriage ceremony. An elderly couple, called the "go-between," conduct the courtship and assist the bride and groom to perform the rite that makes them man and wife, which consists of nine cups of wine drunk alternately by the bride and groom, who hand them to each other. This is called the "san-san-kudo," literally "three-three-nine," and means that they will share the bitter and the sweet in life's cup together.

Sometimes there are the images of an old man and woman, a couple who lived happily for a hundred years; also a bough of plum-blossoms, symbol of conjugal happiness.

The bride wears white, the mourning color in Japan, to signify that her old life is ended—for marriage is too often a sort of death-in-life to the Japanese woman. She is virtually the slave of her mother-in-law, and must live only for her husband's family, who exact from her the most abject submission. She marries at 16 and begins a life of drudgery that makes her an old woman at 30 or 35, and her only gleam of hope-in-life lies in her having sons who will marry and place her in the envied position of mother-in-law.

The flowing veil of the western bride is, for the Japanese woman, a



The Rite Which Makes Them Man and Wife.

large hood made of white wadding, that modestly shades her features. When the ceremony—which is never witnessed by the guests—is completed, she retires and changes her costume; for the wedding kimono once doffed, is never worn again.

When she is re-dressed, she appears at the feast to which guests are bidden. Very wealthy brides retire between each course—sometimes there are nine, sometimes seven or eleven, a regular game of craps!—and re-appear in more gorgeous raiment, until you begin to think there's a corner in kimonos.

When the feasting is over, the "go between" couple conducts them to the bridal chamber and serves them a special cup called the "bed-wine." During the marriage ceremony the bride and groom do not drink the nine cups of wine, but merely touch their lips to the cup; for the well-known potency of the sake would have them paralyzed by about the fifth cup, and they'd never get married at all.

WALKING SUIT



Simple in construction and becoming when worn, is this jaunty little tailor-suit of navy blue serge, which is particularly appropriate to wear during the morning and early afternoon hours. The coat is a one-buttoned cutaway model, with a seam at the center-back. The side-back seams have a decided curve at the waistline, and the fronts are semi-fitting owing to the slight curve at the under-arm seam. The revers and turn-back cuffs are faced with black moire silk and trimmed along all the edges with black silk braid. The skirt as shown is a 15-gored flare model, with a box-pleat at the center-front; closing at the back under an inverted box-pleat. The wide trimming band, which may be outlined, is of the material striped with the braid.

For 36 bust the coat requires 5 1/2 yards of material 20 inches wide, 2 3/4 yards 36 inches wide, 2 1/2 yards 42 inches wide, or 1 1/2 yard 54 inches wide; as illustrated, 5/8 yard of silk 20 inches wide and 3/4 yards of braid to trim. For 26 waist the skirt, made of material with nap, requires 11 1/2 yards 20 inches wide, 5 1/2 yards 42 inches wide, or 4 1/2 yards 54 inches wide; or, without nap, it needs 10 yards 20 inches wide, 5 1/2 yards 36 inches wide, 4 1/2 yards 42 inches wide, or 3 1/2 yards 54 inches wide; 2 yards 20 inches wide, 1 1/2 yard 36 inches wide, 1 1/4 yards 42 inches wide, or 1 yard 54 inches wide, extra, for trimming bands. Width of lower edge about 4 1/2 yards.

NOVELTY IN GIRLS' NECKWEAR.

Introduction of Colors Has Proved Welcome Innovation.

The introduction of color is a novelty in neckwear for the smart girl. White, alone, and unadorned, is seldom to be found among the newest styles in neckwear.

In shape little change is to be seen. The most popular is a high turnover, meeting at the top as well as at the bottom. In the outer collar, or turnover, however, there is no limit to variety.

As two tones are popular in dress materials, so have they made their way into collars. For mornings in the country, golfing, riding or motoring, there are pinks, blues and greens. The edges are either scalloped or finished with narrow hemstitched lines. Embellishment is given to some by the lines being intersected with polka dots, in a shade darker than the heavier stripe. On plain collars—that is to say, those whose backgrounds are white or else solid color—the dots are formed into stripes by joining the spots with the same thread.

Many of the solid colored linen collars have fronts or tabs to match, the ends in white sprays of French embroidery. In this case the edge of the collar is scalloped in white, and there is a small flower design in each corner.

MODISH CHAPEAU.



Pale Green Felt with Pink Roses and Green Leaves.

A Tea Gown. Picturesqueness is the note struck by a graceful tea gown in a soft, deep rose red veiled with mushroom brown chiffon, and again by mushroom net embroidered with damask roses and foliage, and hemmed with mink tail.

USE FOR WORN WAISTS.

Fixed Up a Little, They Make Fine Corset Covers.

Most women dislike to throw away lingerie waists even after they are too worn for further use because of the work lavished on these expensive and perishable things. There are yards of perfectly good lace and embroidery in them and the body part is hardly worn, but the collars are hopeless, the yokes are worn and the sleeves and cuffs are split and worn.

If you have any waists of this description bring them to view and see if when the collars and yokes and sleeves are cut off they could not be made into perfectly beautiful corset covers. You will find at least one or two which can be made over. Rip out the sleeves and cut off the yoke to the depth which you desire your corset cover to be. Bind the top and arm holes with narrow bias bands and sew a row of beading and lace to the top and a row of lace in each arm hole.

Now try it on and carefully mark the belt line. Remove it and cut any material below the line away. Now gather it into a band and finish the band with a button and button hole. Mend any little places which need a stitch or two, and you will be rewarded with the daintiest and prettiest lingerie corset cover which you could hope to possess.

Addition to Layette.

Every one likes to make things for baby's layette, and a miniature cluster of drawers may be made so easily and so very inexpensively that they are well worth trying. A pasteboard box, measuring five or six inches square, is selected, and six small jewel boxes are found to fit into it like drawers. The large box and the front of the small one are covered with silk and white shoe buttons are sewed as handles on the latter and the gift is finished. It is intended, of course, to use for the little details of the infant toilet, and some people mark each box so that a glance at the same will tell the contents. The six necessities are large and small safety pins, drawing strings, little mouth rags, small bits of absorption cotton, white nail scissors and gold studs may be kept in the same drawer.

Gingham Dresses.

Gingham dresses are mostly all made with gulme and sleeves of linen, lace or nainsook. The necks of the gingham overbodies are cut square, and sometimes trimmed with an outside ruffle made of the hemstitched hem of a handkerchief.

I AM A MOTHER



How many American women in lonely homes to-day long for this blessing to come into their lives, and to be able to utter these words, but because of some organic derangement this happiness is denied them.

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The Obnoxious Element. The Rev. Dr. Somers was in the habit of addressing Sarah, his wife, in polysyllables when he wished the children to leave the room. He never dreamed that they understood until nine-year-old Jack, recovering from measles, was one day enjoying the dear privilege of hearing his mother read aloud.

The doctor ventured in and began softly: "Sarah—"

Up rose Master Jack in bed. "Sarah," quoth he, "eliminate the obnoxious element."—Lippincott's.

Difference in the Men. "You have an analytical mind," said a senator to a Washington correspondent, "and I want you to tell me why Congressman X, who is sharp and witty, remains popular with his colleagues, while Congressman B, who is just as gifted, repels even his most ardent friends."

The correspondent promised to make a study of the two men. He heard both in debate, and made the following report: "Both men are gifted, witty, and keen as a razor, but Congressman X is a safety razor."

A Hard Head. Representative McCall of Massachusetts said to Representative Williams of Mississippi, while chatting recently: "John, is it true that one can never injure a southern dandy by striking him on the head?"

"Absolutely true," responded Williams, with an air of great gravity. "As an instance in point will convince you. A Mississippi dandy went to sleep in a barn with his feet against the side. In the night a mule kicked him in the head and the concussion broke his ankle."—Illustrated Sunday Magazine.

Room and Plenty in the South.

There are 27,000,000 acres of arable land in the state of Louisiana and only 6,000,000 of these acres are under cultivation, according to the Charleston News and Courier. The secretary of the board of immigration of that state has issued an address to would-be settlers informing them that Louisiana planters with large tracts of land "stand ready and willing to aid every man who is willing to help himself and sell farms on ten years' credit." This invitation is supplemented by the state board of immigration with the statement that they are now trying to cause immigration to the state "by securing men who are willing to farm on shares." The further promise is made that "houses are provided for families who go. We furnish each family with a horse or mule, seed to plant crops and ground and garden trucking implements." This ought to be a very liberal and inviting offer to the thousands of unemployed in the northern states.

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